



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

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Director, State Laboratory of Public Health

Memo

To: North Carolina Clinical Laboratories

From: Scott M. Shone, PhD, HCLD(ABB), Public Health Laboratory Director

Date: June 29, 2026

Re: Change in testing – extended OXA gene testing for Carbapenem resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* (CRAB)

On June 1st 2026, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Antimicrobial Resistance Laboratory Network (ARLN) deprioritized extended OXA gene testing for Carbapenem-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* (CRAB) isolates and will be limiting this testing to outbreak investigations and response. CDC data analysis (2023-2025) showed that nearly 90% of CRAB isolates carry an OXA gene. Thus, CRAB isolates are considered OXA-positive.

Effective immediately, NCSLPH will cease extended OXA carbapenemase gene testing (OXA-23, -24, -40, -58, and -235) for CRAB isolates. The CDC ARLN will maintain capacity to perform extended OXA mechanism testing to support outbreak response and colonization screening. Routine testing for KPC, NDM, OXA-48, VIM, and IMP carbapenemase genes will continue for CRAB isolates.

Reporting to public health under Administrative Code Rule 10A NCAC 41A.0101 still applies for identified or reasonably suspected carbapenemase-producing organisms (CPO) including CRAB, CRE, and CRPA.

If you have any questions related to OXA CRAB outbreak investigation and response, please contact nchai@dhhs.nc.gov or the NC DPH epidemiologist on call at 919-733-3419.

If you have questions related to extended OXA gene testing, please contact the NCSLPH Microbiology Unit at slph.arln@dhhs.nc.gov or 919-733-7367.

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH • STATE LABORATORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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